



# News Release

## Maryland National Guard

Major General Bruce F. Tuxill, The Adjutant General



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE UNIT IS MOBILIZED

BALTIMORE (January 25, 2004) – Almost 30 citizen-soldiers from a Maryland National Guard unit are deploying on federal active duty from the Laurel armory on Tuesday at 9 a.m. in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A platoon from the 629<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion is being mobilized up to 18 months and will serve overseas with the new Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle after they report to Fort Benning, Ga.

“We can be very proud of our citizen-soldiers in Maryland, we’re the first reserve component unit to receive the Shadow TUAV,” said Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland.

The Shadow is a new generation of UAVs that is designed as a ground maneuver commander's primary day/night reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and battle damage assessment system. Crucial intelligence is delivered efficiently from its electronic payload directly to tactical command centers. The Shadow is compact, lightweight and can carry various intelligence-gathering payloads.

Currently the Maryland National Guard has more than 1,100 soldiers and airmen deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. We have served at 24 locations around the world including Iraqi, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Estonia, Liberia, Ukraine, Kuwait, West Africa, Oman,

Albania, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. We mobilized and deployed over 3,900 citizen-soldiers and airmen since September 11, 2001.

**Members of the media are invited to film and interview the soldiers and family members at the PVT Henry Costin Armory, 8601 Odell Road, Laurel, Md. 20708. Please bring proper identification.**

**Visuals: AAI Corporation will provide a static display of a Shadow 200 TUAV**

